

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A stent for implanting in a body lumen, comprising:  
a plurality of adjacent cylindrical elements each having a circumference extending about a longitudinal stent axis and being substantially independently expandable in a radial direction, each cylindrical element being arranged in alignment along the longitudinal stent axis and formed in a generally serpentine wave pattern transverse to the longitudinal axis and containing alternating valley portions and peak portions, wherein at least two adjacent valley portions and two adjacent peak portions on each cylindrical element have differing longitudinal lengths which permit nesting when the stent is crimped or collapsed; and  
at least one interconnecting member extending between and connecting adjacent cylindrical elements to one another.

3. (Amended) The stent of claim 1, wherein:  
one valley portion is a V-shaped portion and the other adjacent valley portion is a W-shaped portion having different longitudinal lengths.

6. (Amended) The stent of claim 1, wherein:

one peak portion is a V-shaped portion and the adjacent peak portion is a W-shaped portion having different longitudinal lengths.

11. (Amended) A stent for implanting in a body lumen, comprising:

a plurality of adjacent cylindrical elements each having a circumference extending about a longitudinal stent axis and being substantially independently expandable in a radial direction, each cylindrical element being arranged in alignment along the longitudinal stent axis and formed in a generally serpentine wave pattern transverse to the longitudinal axis and containing alternating valley portions and peak portions, wherein at least two adjacent valley portions and two adjacent peak portions on each cylindrical element are capable of nesting when the stent is crimped or collapsed; and

at least one interconnecting member extending between and connecting adjacent cylindrical elements to one another, the interconnecting members connecting W-shaped valley portions with V-shaped valley portions of adjacent cylindrical elements.

13. (Amended) The stent of claim 10, wherein:

the interconnecting member connects W-shaped valley portions with V-shaped valley portions on adjacent cylindrical elements.

15. (Amended) The stent of claim 13, wherein:

each cylindrical element has at least two peak portions which are W-shaped portions and two valley portions which are W-shaped portions.

17. (Amended) A stent for implanting in a body lumen, comprising:

a plurality of adjacent cylindrical elements each having a circumference extending about a longitudinal stent axis and being substantially independently expandable in a radial direction, each cylindrical element being arranged in alignment along the longitudinal stent axis and formed in a generally serpentine wave pattern transverse to the longitudinal axis and containing alternating valley portions and peak portions, wherein at least two adjacent valley portions and two adjacent peak portions on each cylindrical element are capable of nesting when the stent is crimped or collapsed and each cylindrical element includes at least four valley portions having a W-shaped portion; and

at least one interconnecting member extending between and connecting

adjacent cylindrical elements to one another.

23. (Amended) A stent for implanting in a body lumen, comprising:

a plurality of adjacent cylindrical elements each having a circumference extending about a longitudinal stent axis and being substantially independently expandable in a radial direction, each cylindrical element being arranged in alignment along the longitudinal stent axis and formed in a generally serpentine wave pattern transverse to the longitudinal axis and containing alternating valley portions and peak portions, wherein at least two adjacent valley portions and two adjacent peak portions on each cylindrical element have differing longitudinal lengths which permit nesting when the stent is crimped or collapsed; and

means for connecting adjacent cylindrical elements together.

24. (Amended) A stent for implanting in a body lumen, comprising:

a plurality of adjacent cylindrical elements each having a circumference extending about a longitudinal stent axis and being substantially independently expandable in a radial direction, each cylindrical element being arranged in alignment along the longitudinal stent axis and formed in a generally serpentine wave pattern

transverse to the longitudinal axis and containing alternating valley portions and peak portions, wherein at least two adjacent valley portions and two adjacent peak portions on each cylindrical element are capable of nesting when the stent is crimped or collapsed and each cylindrical element includes at least one peak portion having a W-shaped portion and at least one valley portion having a W-shaped portion which are arranged adjacent to each other; and

at least one interconnecting member extending between and connecting adjacent cylindrical elements to one another.

30. (Amended) A stent for implanting in a body lumen, comprising:

a plurality of adjacent cylindrical elements each having a circumference extending about a longitudinal stent axis and being substantially independently expandable in a radial direction, each cylindrical element being arranged in alignment along the longitudinal stent axis and formed in a generally serpentine wave pattern transverse to the longitudinal axis and containing alternating valley portions and peak portions, wherein at least two adjacent valley portions and two adjacent peak portions on each cylindrical element are capable of nesting when the stent is crimped or collapsed; and

at least one interconnecting member extending between and connecting adjacent cylindrical elements to one another, at least one cylindrical element including a V-shaped peak portion, a V-shaped valley portion, a W-shaped peak portion and a W-shaped valley portion, the V-shaped peak portion and the W-shaped valley portion being connected by interconnecting members to an adjacent cylindrical element and the V-shaped valley portion and the W-shaped peak portion being connected by interconnecting members to an opposite adjacent cylindrical element.

31. (Amended) A stent for implanting in a body lumen, comprising:

a plurality of adjacent cylindrical elements each having a circumference extending about a longitudinal stent axis and being substantially independently expandable in a radial direction, each cylindrical element being arranged in alignment along the longitudinal stent axis and formed in a generally serpentine wave pattern transverse to the longitudinal axis and containing alternating valley portions and peak portions, wherein at least two adjacent valley portions and two adjacent peak portions on each cylindrical element are capable of nesting when the stent is crimped or collapsed; and

at least one interconnecting member extending between and connecting

a plurality of adjacent cylindrical elements each having a circumference extending about a longitudinal stent axis and being substantially independently expandable in a radial direction, each cylindrical element being arranged in alignment along the longitudinal stent axis and formed in a generally serpentine wave pattern transverse to the longitudinal axis and containing alternating valley portions and peak portions, wherein at least two adjacent valley portions and two adjacent peak portions on each cylindrical element are capable of nesting when the stent is crimped or collapsed and each cylindrical element includes at least one peak portion having a W-shaped portion and at least one valley portion having a W-shaped portion which are arranged adjacent to each other; and

at least one interconnecting member extending between and connecting adjacent cylindrical elements to one another.

30. (Amended) [The stent of claim 1, wherein:] A stent for implanting in a body lumen, comprising:

a plurality of adjacent cylindrical elements each having a circumference extending about a longitudinal stent axis and being substantially independently expandable in a radial direction, each cylindrical element being arranged in alignment

along the longitudinal stent axis and formed in a generally serpentine wave pattern transverse to the longitudinal axis and containing alternating valley portions and peak portions, wherein at least two adjacent valley portions and two adjacent peak portions on each cylindrical element are capable of nesting when the stent is crimped or collapsed;  
and

at least one interconnecting member extending between and connecting adjacent cylindrical elements to one another, at least one cylindrical element [includes] including a V-shaped peak portion, a V-shaped valley portion, a W-shaped peak portion and a W-shaped valley portion, the V-shaped peak portion and the W-shaped valley portion being connected by interconnecting members to an adjacent cylindrical element and the V-shaped valley portion and the W-shaped peak portion being connected by interconnecting members to an opposite adjacent cylindrical element.

31. (Amended) [The stent of claim 1, wherein:] A stent for implanting in a body lumen, comprising:

a plurality of adjacent cylindrical elements each having a circumference extending about a longitudinal stent axis and being substantially independently expandable in a radial direction, each cylindrical element being arranged in alignment

along the longitudinal stent axis and formed in a generally serpentine wave pattern  
transverse to the longitudinal axis and containing alternating valley portions and peak  
portions, wherein at least two adjacent valley portions and two adjacent peak portions on  
each cylindrical element are capable of nesting when the stent is crimped or collapsed;  
and

at least one interconnecting member extending between and connecting  
adjacent cylindrical elements to one another, at least one cylindrical element [has] having  
a W-shaped peak portion connected to a peak portion of an adjacent cylindrical element  
and a W-shaped valley portion connected to a valley portion of an opposite adjacent  
cylindrical element